

THE JAPANESE EMBASSY.

From Our Own Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday Evening, May 15, 1860.

The Japanese have passed to-day in quiet seclusion. Little business, except their own, has been held before them, and few visitors have broken in upon their retirement. They, too, have wandered less freely than last evening, about the corridors and the saloons. This, however, arises from no disinclination of their own. Left to themselves, they would continually seek communication with all, and would not be deterred by the object of the mission. But the United States Commissioner has elected their roving dispositions, with the object, it is said, of carrying out the necessary arrangements for the Presidential reception, and of enabling public demonstrations. Certain indisputable causes of detention have so deferred these events that no definite idea as to the time of their occurrence seems to exist. The interview with the President, originally fixed for to-day, was afterward laid over until Wednesday, then assigned for Thursday, and now stands in some danger of still further postponement. A prime cause of delay was the uncertainty of the precise rank and ambassadorial powers held by the Commissioners. It was considered necessary that this should be determined, in order that the general diplomatic Corps might not be taken unawares, and commit themselves to any speech or action of the new visitors. The matter appears to be simple. The Commissioners are unquestionably of the highest rank that could have been desired for the mission upon which they come by the Tycoon of Japan. Ambassadorial rank, however, depends upon the extent of the powers conferred on Ambassadors. In this case, these powers do not appear to be very great. The Japanese princes are not authorized to alter in any way the provisions of the treaty as it now stands, but are merely directed to complete its ratification. They are permitted to do more fully in matters relating to the restoration of their countrymen who may hereafter be shipwrecked on our shores. It is possible that the diplomatic Corps may emulate Japanese reticence, and hold aloof from the strangers, in which event they will simply lose some very valuable as well as strange and interesting experiences.

In what way the Japanese will be entertained, and when the entertainments will begin, it is not yet possible to say. Their visit is to be so brief it seems a pity that these long delays must intervene before they enter upon their real course of American life.

They are now quite snugly established in their apartments. Their first important movement, after taking occupation yesterday, was to signalize their satisfaction by watery celebrations. It is estimated that the amount of bathing done in a given time was greater than ever before known in this region. To-day, again, there is bathing, not occasional, but incessant. Their business proceedings have all been after their own desires. They have written many dispatches to send by the first opportunity to their Government at home. Upon these they have labored the greater part of the day. Some of the party have been studying English, and make greater progress than can easily be understood, considering their disadvantages. One officer, who knew no word of our language at the time he started from Yedo, now converses without serious difficulty. Those among them who as yet have a very imperfect knowledge of English, use many abbreviations, but are by no means unskilled on points of grammar.

For their food, the Japanese have yet to rely upon American cooks, their own culinary arrangements not having been put in order. They eat little besides rice and oyster soup. Their dispositions in the way of champagne and confectionery on board the Philadelphia were rather excessive for their simple habits, which they now resume with sincere confidence of health.

A JAPANESE EVENING.

The Japanese evening sessions with their pleasant voices, and the corridors are filled with their familiarly-voiced forms, flitting restlessly about from one limit to the other of their abiding place. Beyond these boundaries are gathered throngs of gazers, feasting their eager eyes, and murmuring ineffectual invitations to the secluded ones to come forth; for during the entire day, the hotel has not been closed by the expected diffusion of the dark-skinned strangers. Within their rooms, the Japanese pursue their gay avocations, and a few writing, a few sketching, many smoking, and all benignly smiling. The three Princes receive with affability the thousand formal and sonorous speeches that are sent them.

The interpreter translates all that has been said in one-third of the time of its first utterance, and delivers the brief answer, after which the orator retires, feeling himself a better and wiser man for this communion, and speculating upon the probable impression his majestic oratory must have made upon the Japanese nobles. In exalted rooms, the higher officers sit about, all chatting briskly, and puffing brief pipes, or drinking minute drafts of tea, which are made ready for their use in little cups, hot water being always ready in a copper vessel which rests upon a pan of lighted coal. In an apartment, the physicians minister to a patient who suffers from the effects of a fever which assailed him at Panama.

This invalid, unlike any of his companions, displays a beard of many days' growth, and hair unshaven—the privilege, no doubt, of his infirm condition. In the open halls, knots of strollers assemble, and make remarks about the crowds beyond them, which they would well like to join. Now a lofty officer, passing, and the subordinates salute him with a drawing breath, resting the hands upon the knees, and sending forth quickly between their teeth—an inexpressible accompaniment to their recognition of superiors. Now little "Tommy," the third interpreter, runs along, greedily excited at a sudden break of his rule, which has been blown out instead of shutting off, and which refuses to be re-lighted. New servants enter from their own department to receive instructions, and walk innocently up and down without trousers on, the warlike having induced a temporary remission of these garments—which, indeed, are frequently not worn at all by the lower attendants.

A party of artists collect together, and view daguerotypes—the process of taking which, one of them has learned, and which all of them theoretically understand—with passing observations truly complimentary to American beauty. Upon the backs of some they record their admiration. Now "Tommy" is moved to rush impetuously to his room, and to produce there his own daguerotype, taken in San Francisco, in which his pleasant features are faithfully enough reproduced, but which lacks the animation that always beams from his countenance. A conversation about the stereoscope is introduced, the officers intimating that in order to carry back with them to Japan the best remembrance of such scenes as shall please them, they will avail themselves of this invention. As it grows later, a portion of the Japanese signify their intention of withdrawing. The good night is uttered in their own language.

It is vain to look for indications of religious observance, for none such are performed before strange eyes, although evidence appears of devotion to some of the most sacred principles of Oriental faith. Toward 10 o'clock the officers mostly retire, although some few remain awake and active till after midnight. At last the door of the prince is closed, the lights vanish one by one, and presently the Japanese settlement is shrouded in silent darkness.

APPEARANCE OF THE JAPANESE.

The mystery of the origin of the Japanese people is not to be in any way elucidated by their appearance. They bear no close physical resemblance to any other nation. From the Chinese, with whom they have frequently been supposed to be allied, they are as distinct in appearance as in intellect. The Chinese are heavy in countenance and in yellow complexion—usually unattractive, to say the least, to the eye. The Japanese have bright, clear faces, and are literally, in many cases, as white as wax. Exposure to the sun (they seldom wear hats) gives their cheeks and brow

a deep tawny hue, but the hands of those unaccustomed to toil, are as white and delicate as those of American ladies. Wherever their skin is protected, it is perfectly fair. As for the peculiarity of expression which marks almost all their faces, it appears to be caused by their singular method of dressing the hair. One or two of the Ambassador's attendants, who had neglected shaving for some days, and suffered their hair to fall about their faces, the American fashion, could not, except by their dress, be distinguished from the sailors on board the Komoko.

In other respects, the differences between the Chinese and Japanese are more striking. They have, indeed, the same religion—although the primitive religion of Japan is elsewhere unknown, Buddhism, which is also the Chinese faith, having been introduced only in the sixteenth century—and to a certain degree the same habits and ways of life. But the forms of Government, the character of the people, and the most important of their customs, are wholly different. The dignity, sensitiveness, intelligence, neatness and enterprise of the Japanese are the exact antitheses of Chinese degradation, stupidity, filth and sluggishness. To hint at a possible resemblance between the nations is to give a Japanese his severest pride-wound.

The Japanese are generally smaller than the average of our people, but often stronger in proportion to their size.

JAPANESE CURIOSITIES.

Last Saturday, when the Philadelphia lay at Portsmouth, no thought of any matter apart from the Japanese possessed the slightest interest. The attractions of Norfolk were held out in vain, and nothing during the long detention claimed special regard, excepting a rare and valuable collection of Japanese curiosities, brought to this country by Mr. Robert Danby, an engineer of the United States Navy, who first visited the Kingdom of the Rising Sun under Commodore Perry, and who, in a subsequent expedition, enjoyed additional opportunities for gathering memorials of the skill and ingenuity of the people. Mr. Danby was the engineer who laid the first railroad in Japan, and introduced the steam-engine to the natives—an invention at that time far surpassing any achievement of their own, and welcomed by them with delight.

In the selection of his Japanese souvenirs, he sought mostly articles of mechanical interest, all of which, however, display also in their manufacture a very good degree of artistic elegance. Fans of exquisite delicacy in form and construction, rivaling the coolest that our jewellers can show; tables of lacquered wood, combining much beauty with varied utility, altogether too limited for ready remembrance; porcelain-ware of airy lightness, yet needing no tenderness of treatment for its preservation, and covered with brilliant and fanciful adornments, dressing-cases, perfume-boxes, tops, dolls, and other characteristic productions of their ingenuity and taste, are brought together in such profusion and variety as to present the finest display of Japanese curiosities in this country.

Most interesting of all was the lacquer-ware—boxes, cups, baskets, &c., covered with delicate but very durable polish, the knowledge and application of which belongs to Japan. This lacquer, when properly prepared, is so hard that it can only be scratched by the sharpest instruments, and is unimpaired by the hottest fluids. The lacquer is like that of a mirror. The Japanese tops, of which Mr. Danby has 40 different varieties, each showing some novel curiosity, are admirably made. They develop, after starting upon their rotations, unexpected proportions; or they multiply into a fraternity of tops; or a flourishing top family, small and frisky, springs suddenly from a sage and matronly spinner. Some tops give out the queerest noises, some dance along upon strings in the air, and some expand into fanciful and symmetrical forms, wholly at variance with the popular idea of tops.

Another curious possession of Mr. Danby is a collection of dolls, representing the various ages from childhood to manhood. These served to explain, in a new way, the hair system of arranging the hair. We saw the hair of a child of about the age of the infant, leaving only the narrow rim around the sides and back. Until the age of fourteen it is permitted to grow loosely, and is then gathered up in the manner described in a previous letter, which is adhered to through life. With girls the hair is suffered through childhood, to grow in five locks, one over the middle of the forehead, one each side of the head, just above the ear, one, larger than the rest, upon the crown, and one upon the back of the head.

At fourteen these locks are gathered up, and thenceforward there is no more shaving, on any part of the head. The hair consequently grows very rapidly and thickly. Some of Mr. Danby's illustrations were revealed a higher artistic power than the Japanese are usually credited with. They contain pictures far above the ordinary colored views which are common among the people of the Embassy, and which are mainly of a character calculated to prevent their very wide circulation here. One of Mr. Danby's pictures, representing a spirit rising from a grave, and floating mistily through the air, is full of imagination, and executed with a skill that would be sufficient to give distinction if produced among us.

This evening a Committee of the House of Representatives visited the Embassy, and invited the attendance of the Embassy at the Capitol. The Chief Commissioner declined to go, with his associates, to make a personal appeal to come, and took opportunity to make a new acknowledgment of the courtesies shown them by the Government of the United States. The visit to the Capitol will not take place for some days.

[By Telegraph.]

WASHINGTON, Thursday, May 17, 1860.

The Japanese Embassy, attended by their officers, and the Naval Commission, left Willard's Hotel at about 11 o'clock this morning on their way to the President's house. They rode in open carriages. Twenty-five uniformed policemen were in front, and the same number in the rear, while the marines and orchestra men marched on each side of the vehicles to the music of the march band.

The Chief Prince was arrayed in a rich brocade purple silk suit, with ample over-hanging sleeves and flowing trousers of the same color. The other two dignitaries were in green of similar texture and fashion. They wore caps like ladies' inverted caps, fastened on the crown of the head by strings passing under the chin. They carried pipes, handkerchiefs, and emblems of their rank. The inferior officers wore small hats, consisting of a round band, with triangular crowns, also tied to the head by strings under the chin.

The prominent points were occupied by anxious spectators, and the streets were crowded, multitudes following to the President's house.

Meanwhile, in the East Room, where a brilliant company, among whom were the New-York Municipal Committee, who came hither to invite the Japanese to visit that city.

Contrary to the programme and expectation, there was a large attendance of ladies who accompanied the members of Congress and others holding prominent public positions.

The navy officers formed in line in the East Room, prominent among whom was Capt. Tatnall, while the army officers formed another line, Lieut-Gen. Scott being prominent, together with his staff.

Between these lines was an open space about 25 feet wide, to be the scene of the grand presentation. The interest was intense, and the usual stir characterized the preliminary proceedings.

The folding doors were opened at noon, when the President of the United States entered, accompanied by the Cabinet officers. They took position on the east side, facing the west.

Secretary Cass retired to the ante-room, and returned with the Japanese Commissioners and their attendants, who made several profound bows as they approached the President and Cabinet.

Then one of the Japanese opened a series of paper boxes, one within another, and produced several letters, which were handed to the President and by him to Gen. Cass.

The Principal Japanese then addressed the President as follows:

"His Majesty, the Tycoon, has commanded me that we respectfully express to his Majesty, the President of the United States, in his name, as follows:

"Desiring to establish on a firm and lasting foundation the relations of respect and comradely existing between the two countries.

"That lately the plenipotentiaries of both countries have negotiated and concluded a treaty.

"Now, he has ordered us to exchange the ratification of the treaty in your principal City of Washington.

"Henceforth he hopes that the friendly relations shall be made more and more lasting, and will be very happy to have you friendly feeling.

"That you have brought us to the United States, and will send us back to Japan in your own way."

Having delivered their message, they retired, bowing to the President and Cabinet repeatedly, in leaving their presence. They soon, however, returned, bowing profoundly as before, when the President addressed them as follows, Mr. Portman interpreting to the Japanese interpreter, and the latter communicating with the principal Envoy:

"I give you a cordial welcome as representatives of Imperial Majesty. The Tycoon of Japan, to the American Government. We are all much gratified that the first embassy which your great Empire has ever accredited to any foreign Power, has been sent to the United States. I trust that this will be the harbinger of perpetual peace and friendship between the two countries. The treaty of commerce, whose ratification you are about to exchange with the United States, cannot fail to be productive of benefits and blessings to the people both of Japan and the United States. I can say for myself, and promise for my successors, that it shall be carried into execution with a faithful and friendly spirit, so as to secure to both countries all the advantages they may justly expect from the happy auspices under which it has been negotiated and ratified. I rejoice that you are pleased with the kind treatment which you have received on board of our vessels of war while on your passage to this country. You shall be sent back in the same manner, and under the protection of the American flag. Meanwhile, during your residence among us, which I hope may be prolonged, so as to enable you to visit the different portions of our country, we shall be happy to extend to you all the hospitality and kindness eminently due to the great and friendly sovereign whom you so worthily represent."

The President handed them a copy of his address, and then shook hands with them.

The subordinate Japanese officers were also brought in and introduced.

Capt. Dupont was prominent in this part of the ceremony.

The Cabinet officers were presented in the following order: Cobb, Floyd, Toucey, Thompson, Holt, Black, and their relative official positions were briefly explained.

Lieut-Gen. Scott was next introduced, and they warmly greeted him, being evidently delighted with his fine commanding appearance, and in view of his public position.

General Cass asked for Vice-President Breckinridge to introduce him, but he was absent.

Speaker Pennington, as Speaker of the House, was then introduced to the distinguished visitors.

The Japanese again repeated their profound bows, when the impressive scene closed.

Gen. Cass privately said, referring to their ample trousers, "that they would look better with boots."

The crowd slowly dispersed.

The Japanese returned to their hotel in the same order in which they went to the President's house, evidently delighted with the imposing proceedings.

It should be in the above stated that the Japanese did not present a uniform appearance in their costume, which differed according to their respective ranks or positions.

FROM MEXICO.

IMPORTANT BATTLE—VICTORY OF THE LIBERALS.

—GREAT SLAUGHTER—CAPTURE OF GEN. LA VEGA, AND MORE THAN 1,000 PRISONERS.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

Arrived at this port yesterday, we have received from Tampico to the 24th inst. The news is highly important. On the 23d ult. was fought at the Rancho del Chino, State of San Luis Potosi, a general engagement between the Second Corps of the Reactionary army, commanded by Gen. Roldan de la Vega, and the Liberal forces, under Gen. Uraga, in which the former were utterly routed, and Gen. Vega and a large portion of his army were prisoners. Also were captured eighteen pieces of artillery, thirty ordnance wagons, a large quantity of ammunition, provisions, and baggage of every description. In fact, to use the words of Gen. Uraga's report, "the Second Corps of the Reactionary army no longer exists." To say nothing of the losses on the battle-field, during a week's continued fighting, the enemy lost more than a thousand prisoners fallen into the hands of the victorious army.

This brilliant engagement took place about half way between the Cities of Zacatecas and San Luis Potosi. The Liberal forces engaged were the Brigade of Col. J. Garcia, under the command of the General in Chief, and the forces of Gen. Uraga, under the command of Col. Regules and Antonio. They numbered in all some 3,000 to 4,000 men.

The reactionists engaged were the forces recently in possession of San Luis, and numbered in all some 4,000 men. They were supported by eighteen pieces of artillery, and had the choice of ground, for which purpose they had rallied forth from the city, immediately upon hearing of the advance of the enemy.

The Liberals were at the time on the march from Zacatecas, which place they left on the 18th, immediately after the capture of that city. They came up with the enemy at the Hacienda de Espiritu Santo, on the 23d, but not being ready to give battle, moved back, expecting reinforcements, they subsequently fell back, and a flank movement of the Hacienda del Chino. Here, having completed their arrangements, they again took up the line of march, and finally came up with the enemy the second time, at the Rancho del Chino, when the engagement took place. The battle began at 9 a. m. and lasted till 11 p. m. in the afternoon, when the reactionists were driven in every direction. The rout was complete, and the whole of the enemy's train fell into the hands of the Liberals. Also were captured Gen. La Vega himself, the General-in-Chief, Col. Calvo, his second in command, and a large number of other officers and men. The number of prisoners is stated to be upward of 1,000. Of the killed, we have no estimate, though all the reports state it to have been very great on both sides.

Immediately after this engagement, Gen. Uraga marched on San Luis Potosi, where he was hailed with acclamations. The people who the last six months had suffered exactions of every kind, received him with every demonstration of joy.

This sudden change in the fortunes of war has breathed a new life into the hitherto desponding Lib. cause. It has also produced a more vigorous campaign, a combined attack on the city of Mexico. To perfect this is said a number of officers have gone to Vera Cruz, where were Alarista and Cervantes, the 24th, for general consultation. In the meantime Gen. Apud has succeeded Parterreux as Minister of War, in which office he professes to have vigorous intentions. At last accounts, also, Gen. Degollado, the Commander-in-Chief, was on the way to San Luis, to take the command in person.

Among the passengers by the Steamer are Major John Fisher of the Fourth Artillery, and Capt. Jesus de la Garza of the Tamaulipas Cavalry, and acting adjutant of the commander-in-chief's staff. Their special mission, we understand to be, the purchase of arms and ammunition for the vigorous campaign already opened so successfully.

THE METHODISTS AND SLAVERY.

On Wednesday the Committee on Slavery presented their report to the General Conference, now in session in Buffalo. Two reports were made; that of the majority recapitulates the biblical arguments against Slavery, and places its golden rule upon the declaration contained in the Golden Rule, as embodying all the law and the prophets. In the judgment of the Committee there is no single attribute of Slavery, which is not in violation of this rule. The well-known opinions of John Wesley on this subject are alluded to, and the action of the various annual General Conferences of the M. E. Church, in America since 1780, declaratory of the rule in regard to the buying, selling, and holding of man in bondage, are alluded to. From 1808 until now, the rule has read as it exists at present, no one known to the Committee can be substituted by "and."

The report then alludes to the Anti-Slavery character of the church and declares that but for this influence many of the Western States would never have been blessed with free soil, and that the present condition of the country in regard to Slavery has become what it is, in consequence of the influence of the church.

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